

VAUDRICOURT'S FALLS OF NIAGARA

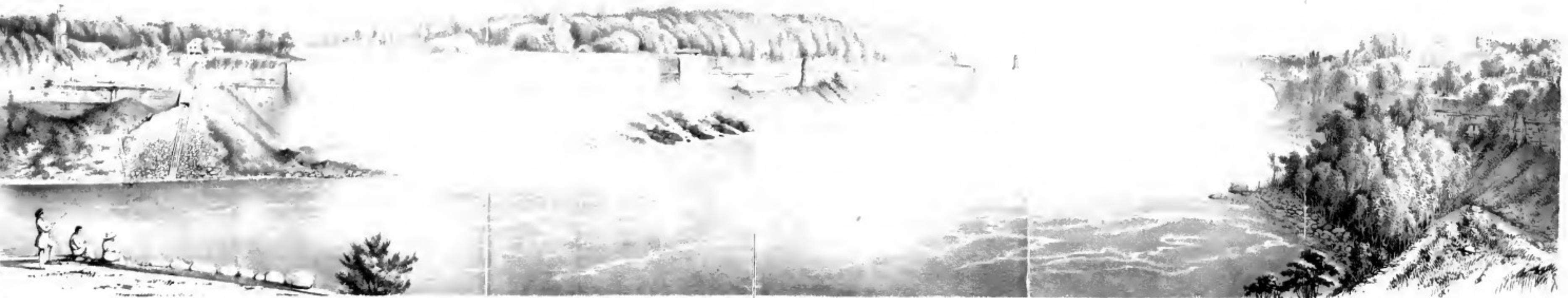




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Lithograph by A. Vandamme, from an original

Engraving by F. Langenreim. 1846.





A G U I D E

TO

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA,

BY J. DE TIVOLI.

WITH A SPLENDID LITHOGRAPHIC VIEW,

BY A. VAUDRICOURT,

FROM A DAGUERREOTYPE OF F. LANGHENEIM.

NEW-YORK:

BURGESS, STRINGER AND CO., 222 BROADWAY.

1846.

INTRODUCTION.

NATURE has been liberal with almost every portion of the earth, in some signal gift or natural phenomenoncal culitd to excite the regard or admiration of the stranger ; but no where has she so lavished her bounties or spread abroad with greater profusion the beautiful and wonderful as upon the American continent.— She would seem to have prepared it for the development of all that moral and intellectual greatness which has characterized her people, and which would seem to correspond with her natural features. Here, within the United States, she has exhibited that freedom and boldness in all her physical delineations, which might seem to be designed by her as a grand picture, to be copied by the American people in their social and political organization ; where the banner of liberty should be as freely unfolded, and where should be opened to the world as grand a theatre of human action.

“ * * * All natural objects have
An echo in the heart. * * * * ”

Here she has been pleased to plant many of her highest mountains, with their summits hidden in the eternal heavens.

“ The palaces of nature, whose vast walls
Have pinnacled in clouds their snowy scalps,
And throned eternity in icy halls
Of cold sublimity. * * * * ”

Here she has spread out to the wonder and admiration of man her endless prairies, scarcely yet marked by human foot-steps ; here she has spotted the vast territory with immense lakes and rivers, deep and stormy as the sea ; and here she has disclosed to the view of wondering nations, as the grandest of her works, the mighty Cataract of Niagara !

“ Tremendous torrent ! for an instant hush
The terrors of thy voice, and cast aside

Those wide-involving shadows, that my eyes
May see the fearful beauty of thy face.

* * * * *

Thou flowest on in quiet, till thy waves
Grow broken 'midst the rocks; thy current, then,
Shoots onward, like the irresistible course
Of destiny. Ah! terribly they rage—
The hoarse and rapid whirlwools there! My brain
Grows wild, my senses wander, as I gaze
Upon the hurrying waters, and my sight
Vainly would follow, as towards the verge
Sweeps the wide torrent; waves innumerable
Meet there and madden; waves innumerable
Urge on, and overtake the waves before,
And disappear in thunder and in foam."

* * * * *

What a world of varied emotions this name wakens in the minds of men! Who dares to describe them? Where is the pencil or the pen, however bold or masterly, which assumes to give an adequate idea of this scene of solemn grandeur and sublimity? Mysterious as the power who formed them, the Falls of Niagara will ever baffle all attempts at description, all powers of delineation. There they are in all their majesty, rolling down their mighty volume of waters from the giddy, awful height, and burying themselves in the deep foaming abyss below.

" * * * * It would seem
As if God poured thee from his hollow hand,
And hung his bow upon thine awful front."

* * * * *

There, wrapped in a wide misty cloud of vapor, reflecting the bright iridescent hues of the arched heavens, the peerless cataract stands to the wondering gaze! No sound is heard, save that of its thundering voice—the voice of nature proclaiming to the earth her unrivalled power! The spectator, spell bound, cannot—dares not divert his eyes nor thoughts from the appalling, but attractive spectacle. Here, reflecting upon the mighty phenomenon, he feels the nothingness of man, the vanity of human pride, and all human aspirations; he humbles his heart, adores the Omnipotence of that mysterious power, ever present yet ever unexplained.

" * * * * And what are we
That hear the question of that voice sublime?
O, what are all the notes that are wrung
From war's vain trumpet, by thy thundering side?
Yea, what is all that riot can make,
In his short life, to thy unceasing roar!"
* * * * * * * * * * * *

In offering to the public the annexed lithographic view of the Falls of Niagara, we can only present a faint copy of the sublime scene, yet one as true to nature in the *tout ensemble*, and as accurate in its details as can possibly be. The body is there, but the soul has fled. For, although to render the work perfect the publishers have availed themselves of the admirable art of Daguerreotype, which, in the hands of a skilful operator cannot be surpassed in copying the beauties of nature, yet the animation which pervades the whole scene must necessarily be lost. We dare affirm, however, that all that could possibly be done has been done; and as a guide to the visitor, and to the memory of those who have once visited the falls, the annexed lithograph will prove invaluable.

These are our claims to public patronage; and we trust our efforts will not prove profitless.

CELEBRATED PLACES OF RESORT,

AND

NATURAL CURIOSITIES ON THE ROUTE FROM NEW YORK TO NIAGARA.

ON THE HUDSON RIVER.

FORT LEE and the Palisades, which here bound the Hudson River.

PIERMONT.—Twenty-four miles north of the city of New York ; here begins the New York and Erie Rail Road.

SING SING.—On the east side of the Hudson river. Here is the celebrated Mount Pleasant State Prison. There is also a stone aqueduct worth seeing.

WEST POINT.—On the west side of the river, surrounded by the highlands. A place of romantic beauty and resort, and celebrated for its military academy, founded under the auspices of General WASHINGTON.

NEWBURG,—pleasantly situated on the west side of the river. This place is celebrated as the head quarters, at one time, of the Father of his Country, whose residence is still in good repair.

POUGHKEEPSIE.—The first village in the State of New York ; lies on the east side of the river, surrounded by rich and beautiful country. Here are the best country residences on the Hudson. The Mountain House lies on an eminence called *Pine Orchard*, one of the Catskill mountains ; is elevated near 3000 feet above the waters of the river ; a fashionable resort in summer ; distant 12 miles from Catskill village.

HUDSON.—Situated at the head of ship navigation.

NEW LEBANON SPRINGS.—A fashionable resort for the invalid and pleasure lovers. The celebrated Shakers settlement will well repay a visit.

ALBANY.—The capital of the State of New York, is one of the oldest cities in the United States. A city rapidly increasing in wealth and population. There are several monuments and pub-

lic institutions worth seeing. The principal hotels are the American Hotel, City Hotel, Clinton Hotel, Columbian Hotel, Congress Hall, Delavan Temperance House, Eagle Tavern, Eastern Railroad Hotel, Fort Orange Hotel, Franklin House, Mansion House, Stanwix Hall, Townsend House, Rensselaer House, United States Hotel and Washington Hall.

TROY.—A beautiful enterprising place of business. This place since the completion of Erie and Champlain Canals, has greatly increased in importance.

COHOES FALLS.—Nine miles north of the city of Albany, on the Mohawk river. There is a perpendicular fall of 70 feet.

THE SPRINGS, LAKE GEORGE, ETC.

BALLSTON SPA.—One of the oldest watering places in the U. S. where are several mineral springs in great reputation. The Sans Souci Hotel is an excellent public house, and a great resort in summer time.

SARATOGA SPRINGS.—This is the most celebrated watering place in the Union. It is annually crowded with foreigners from every part of the world. Possesses many mineral springs highly charged with medical properties. The Hotels are large, and afford every kind of comfort to the visitors. The principal are the United States Hotel, one of the largest in the country. The Pavillion, Congress Hall, and Union Hall, besides there are many other smaller ones equally comfortable.

GLEN'S FALLS—on the North side of Hudson river, a very romantic place, where is a Fall of great beauty.

LAKE GEORGE,—is one of the most picturesque in the United States, is surrounded by high and rugged hills; its waters remarkable for their transparency; abounds in trout, and other excellent fish. The ruins of Forts George and William Henry are to be seen on the South shore of this lake, near the village of Caldwell, where is a commodious Hotel.

SCHENECTADY—is an old place, and a great thoroughfare. Here is situated, on the Mohawk, the Union College.

LITTLE FALLS,—is a most interesting place to the admirers of romantic nature.

TRENTON FALLS,—is situated 28 miles northwest of Little Falls. Here are a succession of Falls, and the scenery is wild and exquisitely beautiful.

WESTERN NEW YORK.

UTICA,—is a great thoroughfare, and a prosperous place of business. The State Lunatic Asylum is a splendid edifice.

SYRACUSE,—celebrated as the great mart for salt, which is produced from brine springs in the town of Salina. It is a thriving place of business.

AUBURN,—is one of the wealthiest and handsomest villages of the state. There is a large Theological Seminary, and the Auburn State Prison, a remarkable edifice.

ITHACA,—handsomely situated near the head of Cayuga Lake; in its vicinity are several beautiful water falls.

GENEVA,—its location is exquisitely beautiful. It is situated on the northwest shore of Seneca Lake, and rises from the waters at an elevation of about 100 feet.

CANANDAIGUA,—A fine place of residence, situated near the fort of Lake Canandaigua, and surrounded by rich agricultural country.

ROCHESTER,—is situated on both sides of the Genesee river, where are the beautiful *Genesee Falls*. This is a handsome city, and has besides several fine bridges, a magnificent aqueduct just finished to accomodate the enlarged Erie Canal, which passes through the centre of the city.

AVON SPRINGS.—Situated 20 miles South of Rochester, a place of great resort for invalids. The Sulphur Springs in its vicinity are in great repute.

LOCKPORT.—A lively and thriving place of business. Here are five combined locks to accomodate the enlarged Erie Canal, built in the most durable and finished style.

NIAGARA FALLS.—We shall give a separate article to this place.

LEWISTON.—Nine miles below the Falls, by railroad, is located at the head of Steamboat navigation on the Niagara river. Queenstown Heights, on the Canada side of the river, is celebrated as the spot where was fought a bloody battle during the last war. Here was killed the British Gen. Brock, and a monument to his memory was erected on the heights.

FORT NIAGARA.—This is an old fortification situated at the mouth of Niagara river on the American side. On the opposite Canada shore are the villages of Niagara and Fort George.

BUFFALO.—This city is called the “Queen of the Lakes,” and is a place of great interest. It lies at the foot of Lake Erie. The commerce of the West concentrates here, and presents the lively appearance of a great business place. It has an excellent harbour,

protected by a massy stone pier, and a substantial stone light house, which is a perfected model of that kind of architecture. It was burnt by the British in 1813, and chartered as a city in 1832.

There are thirteen churches, two large markets, a splendid theatre, a fine Court House, and several other public buildings of very good architecture. The principal Hotels are, the American Hotel, which was erected by the celebrated Benjamin Rathbun, the Western Hotel, the Mansion House, and the United States Hotel.

CHAUTAUQUE LAKE.—A beautiful sheet of water, elevated 726 feet above the waters of Lake Erie, and 1291 above the Atlantic Ocean.

VILLAGE OF NIAGARA FALLS.

The Village of Niagara Falls is situated just above the Cataract, on the American side. It was laid out in 1805 by Judge PORTER, who, with his brother, Gen. PORTER, is the principal proprietor of the place. The village contains two Churches, two Schools, two large Hotels, and several public houses, eighty five dwellings, and about six hundred inhabitants. The principal Hotels are the Eagle Hotel, the Cataract Hotel, which stands a few feet from the banks of the river, and under whose balconies the rapids roll and foam. This hotel can accommodate two hundred persons and is kept in a superior style. A bathing establishment is connected with the Hotel. It is kept by Gen. Whitney and Sons, who are too well known to the travelling community for their courtesy and attentiveness to need from us any recommendation. No place can be healthier or more agreeablea as a summer residence.

On the Canada side are the City of the Falls and the Village of Clifton. These two places are divided by the road leading up from the river at the ferry. The Pavilion Hotel is situated in the former, the Clifton House in the second. The Pavilion Hotel stands on a very elevated position on the upper bank and overlooks Table Rock and the Horse-shoe Fall. The Clifton House is a large and splendid Hotel with every convenience for the accommodation of strangers. It stands on the brow of the bank near the ferry, and commands a magnificent view of the glorious cataract.

From this place has been taken by Mr. Langheneim the beau-

tiful Daguerreotype view which we present to the public, lithographed by A. Vaudricourt.

Midway between the Clifton House and Table Rock is the Camera Obscura, well worth a visit.

Mr. Barnett's Museum, which is at a short distance, should not be neglected by the visitors, this museum contains a beautiful and well arranged collection of valuable and rare specimens of natural curiosities, both native and foreign.

THE CATARACTS.

This imposing and appalling spectacle is formed by the precipitous descent of the river Niagara down a ledge of rocks of more than one hundred and sixty feet perpendicular height, into an abyss of probably greater depth. The river Niagara is that portion of the St. Lawrence which unites the Lakes Erie and Ontario. It is the outlet by which the vast volume of surplus water of the Erie, Huron, Michigan, Superior, St. Clair and other smaller lakes and streams is poured into lake Ontario, from whence, by the river and gulf St. Lawrence, it finds its way into the Atlantic Ocean.

To form an idea of the immense quantity of water precipitated over the falls, it is sufficient to consider that the lakes and tributaries which supply the Niagara cover a surface of one hundred and fifty thousand square miles, and by the nearest calculation contain about one half of all the fresh water of the globe.

THE RAPIDS.

The Niagara after running twenty-one miles acquires a great declivity, and rushes furiously down, impeded by many rocks and ledges, forming a scene of terrific confusion, that fills with awe the mind of the beholder. These are the rapids. On the Canada side, the bed of the river has a greater declivity and the water is deeper than on the American side, and appears less turbulent but much more imposing.

THE THREE FALLS.

At the head of the rapids is situated Goat or Iris Island, which separates them in two unequal parts. That on the Canadian side is the broadest. The Island forms part of the precipice and divides the Fall into two distinct cascades. The smaller of the two is cut off on the side of Iris Island, by Luna or Prospect Island, and

forms what is called the Central Fall. Thus we have the American or Schlosser Fall between the American shore and Prospect Island; the Central or Crescent Fall between Prospect and Iris Island, and the British or Horse-shoe Fall between Iris Island and the Canada shore. These three form the Cataract of Niagara. The Cataract, including Iris and Prospect Island, measures something more than fourteen hundred yards; the periphery of the Horse-shoe Fall about seven hundred yards; of the Central Fall twenty yards; and of the American Fall three hundred and thirty yards. On the American side the apparent descent is one hundred and sixty-four feet; of the Horse-shoe Fall, one hundred and fifty-eight feet.

The banks of the river at the Falls are on a average one hundred and fifty-feet in height. In several places they are considerably projecting.

At Table Rock, the visitor is enabled to pass some distance under the great sheet itself and there his bewildered eyes behold a scene of such a wild beauty and grandeur, which leave an impression never to be forgotten in after days.

The roar of the Cataract may be conceived by the fact, that one can hear it at a distance of twenty or thirty miles.

The limits we have proposed to ourselves in writing these pages, prevent us from indulging in wider descriptions; but we refer our readers for ampler details to "Ore's Pictorial Guide to Niagara Falls." A pretty correct idea of this stupendous natural wonder may be formed by glancing to our lithographic view herein annexed.

REMARKABLE OBJECTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE CATARACT.

A few rods below the American Fall is the SUMMER GARDEN. This is a beautiful summer house, almost on the brow of the precipice; it occupies the same spot where ABBOTT, the Hermit of the Falls, had built his hut. From this place you have a beautiful view of the Cataract.

POINT VIEW.—So called from the splendid view of the chasm, river and cataract; is about three-fourths of a mile below the ferry.

THE MINERAL SPRING is about a mile and a fourth from Point View. The water swells up between the rocks, and is collected in a stone basin; it contains lime and magnesia, and is strongly impregnated with sulphur.

THE WHIRLPOOL.—Three miles from the Falls. We recommend

to every stranger not to neglect to visit the Whirlpool; it is an object of great interest, and differs in every point from every thing else about the Falls.

DEVIL'S HOLE,—half a mile below the Whirlpool. This is a deep, dark cove in the rocky banks, an object of great curiosity for its gloomy solemnity and historical associations.

QUEENSTON HEIGHT and BROCK'S MONUMENT.—Not far from the latter place.

HEWLETT'S CELLAR—is a singular cavity in the rock, some ten or fifteen feet below the top of the bank; it is worth a visit.

MUDGY RUN.—A small rivulet, which when increased by the rains and melting snows assumes the force of a torrent, and leaps down the banks to mingle with the Niagara. The Cascade which it forms is extremely beautiful.

BENDER'S CAVE, called also DEVIL'S DEN,—is quite a curiosity.

LUNDY'S LANE and METEOR HILL, where the battle of Niagara, or Bridgewater, as it is called by some, was fought, calls also the attention of the visitor.

CYNTIA ISLAND and the BURNING SPRING.—The water of the latter is welled up in a barrel, and is kept by the rising gas in constant ebullition. If you apply to it a lighted candle, it takes fire immediately, and burns with a clear steady light.

WESTERN ROUTE.

RAILROAD AND CANAL ROUTES FROM ALBANY AND TROY TO BUFFALO AND NIAGARA FALLS.

The first link in the great line of Railroads, extending from the navigable waters of the Hudson to Lake Erie, is the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad, extending from the city of Albany to Schenectady, a distance of 16 miles.

The Schenectady and Troy Railroad, which has recently been finished and put in operation, extends from the city of Troy to Schenectady, a distance of 20 miles; thus furnishing two lines of travel by Railroad from the latter place to the tide waters of the Hudson. The city of Schenectady has become a great thoroughfare. In addition to the Erie Canal, which passes through the centre of the city, here diverges four important Railroads. Besides those already mentioned, the Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad runs to Saratoga Springs a distance of $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the Utica and Schenectady Railroad, extends to the city of Utica,

a distance of 77 miles,—the latter runs through the valley of the Mohawk, parallel to the river and the Erie canal.

Lines of commodious Canal Packets run from Schenectady to Utica, connecting with other lines running to Syracuse, Rochester, Lockport and Buffalo; a total distance by canal of 333 miles.

The following are the names and length of the several Railroads between Albany and Buffalo.

Mohawk and Hudson Railroad,	16	miles.
Utica and Schenectady, "	77	"
Syracuse and Utica, "	53	"
Auburn and Syracuse, "	26	"
Auburn and Rochester, "	79	"
Tonawanda, "	43	"
Attica and Buffalo, "	31	"
Total,	325	miles.

Usual running time from Albany to Buffalo, 25 hours.

DISTANCES AND RATES OF FARE, VIA RAILROADS BETWEEN ALBANY AND BUFFALO. SUMMER ARRANGEMENT, JUNE, 1843.

PLACES.	Miles.	1st class cars	Accommodation train Way Fare.	Emigrant Train. Way Fare.
ALBANY TO SCHENECTADY,	16	\$0 50	\$0 50	\$0 31
" Hoffman's	25	0 87½	0 75	
" Cranesville.	28	1 00	0 81	
" Amsterdam,	32	1 12½	0 87½	
" Tribe's Hill,	37	1 37½	1 00	
" Fonda,	43	1 50	1 12½	
" Spraker's	51	1 87½	1 37½	
" Palatine Bridge,	54	2 00	1 50	
" Fort Plain,	57	2 12½	1 56	
" Palatine Church	60	2 25	1 62½	
" St. Johnsville,	63	2 37½	1 68	
" East Canada Creek,	66	2 50	1 75	
" Little Falls,	73	2 75	1 81	
" Herkimer,	78	3 00	2 12½	
" Schuyler,	86	3 25	2 25	
" UTICA,	94	3 50	2 50	1 56
" SYRACUSE,	147	5 50	4 00	2 42
" AUBURN,	173	6 50	4 68	2 86
" Geneva,	200			
" ROCHESTER,	251	9 50	6 68	4 11
" Batavia,	283			
" BUFFALO,	325	11 50	8 00	5 00

First Class Trains leave Albany twice daily, morning and evening.

Accommodation and Emigrant Trains leave Albany at 1 P. M., daily.

DISTANCES FROM BUFFALO TO NIAGARA FALLS, VIA RAILROAD.

Black Rock,.....		3
Tonawanda,.....	8	11
Schlosser,.....	10	21
Niagara Falls,.....	1	22

RAILROAD ROUTE, ALBANY TO UTICA.

PLACES.	Place to place.	From Albany.	From Utica.
ALBANY,.....	0	0	93
SCHENECTADY,.....	16	16	77
Hoffman's.....	9	25	68
Cranesville,.....	3	28	65
Amsterdam,.....	3	31	62
Tribes Hill,.....	6	37	56
FONDA,.....	5	42	51
Spraker's,.....	8	50	43
Palatine Bridge,.....	3	53	40
Fort Plain,.....	3	56	37
Palatine Church,.....	3	59	34
St. Johnsville,.....	3	62	31
East Canada Cr,.....	3	65	28
Little Falls,.....	7	72	21
West Canada Cr,.....	6	78	15
HERKIMER,.....	1	79	14
Frankfort Bridge,.....	5	81	9
UTICA,.....	9	93	0

Usual fare in first class cars, \$3.50;
second class cars, \$2.50.

RAILROAD ROUTE FROM UTICA TO SYRACUSE.

PLACES.	Place to place.	From Utica.	From Syracuse
UTICA,.....	0	0	53
Whitesboro,.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oriskany,.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	46
R. ME,.....	7	14	39
Verona Centre,.....	9	23	30
Oneida Depot,.....	4	27	26
Wampsville,.....	3	30	23
Canastota,.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Erie Canal,.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	18
Chittenango,.....	4	39	14
Manlius,.....	4	43	10
Erie Canal,.....	9	52	1
SYRACUSE,.....	1	53	0

Usual fare in first class cars, \$2.00;
second class cars, \$1.50.

FROM SYRACUSE TO ROCHESTER.

PLACES.	Place to place.	From Syracuse.	From Rochester.
SYRACUSE,.....	0	0	105
Geddes,.....	2	2	103
amillus,.....	6	8	97
Elbridge,.....	8	16	89
Skaneateles Junction,.....	1	17	88
Sennet,.....	4	21	84
AUBURN,.....	5	26	79
Cayuga Bridge,.....	0	36	69
Seneeca Falls,.....	5	41	64
WATERLOO,.....	4	45	60
Geneva,.....	8	53	52
Oak's Corners,.....	5	58	47
East Vienna,.....	3	61	44
West Vienna,.....	1	62	43
lifton Springs,.....	3	65	40
Short's Mills,.....	5	70	35
Chapinsville,.....	3	73	32
CANANDAIGUA,.....	5	76	29
Victor,.....	9	85	20
Pittsford,.....	12	97	8
Brighton,.....	4	101	4
ROCHESTER,.....	4	105	0

Usual fare in first class cars, \$4.00;
second class cars, \$2.68.

FROM ROCHESTER TO BUFFALO.

PLACES.	Place to place.	From Rochester.	From Buffalo.
ROCHESTER,.....	0	0	74
Churchville,.....	14	14	60
Bergen,.....	4	18	56
Byron,.....	7	25	49
BATAVIA,.....	7	32	42
Alexander,.....	8	40	34
ATTICA,.....	3	43	31
Darien,.....	6	49	25
Alden,.....	5	54	20
Lancaster,.....	10	64	10
BUFFALO,.....	10	74	0

Usual fare in first class cars, \$2.00;
second class cars, \$1.00.

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